

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## PROSPECT OF ENORMOUS TAX RATE FOR NEXT YEAR; TAX BOARD, FRANTIC, SEEKS WAY OUT OF FINANCIAL MESS

Conservative Members of Tax Board Predict Rate That Will Eclipse All Records in Municipal Finance, As Result of Administration's Mismanagement of the Public Moneys.

**SPECIAL TAX OF TWO MILLS MAY BE LEVIED THIS YEAR IF IT'S LEGAL**

**But Without This the Rate May Soar as High as 27 and One-Half Mills—Startling Evidences of Improvidence Adduced at Special Session of Tax Board—Juggling Funds Must Stop.**

If a special tax of two mills is laid this year, the tax rate next year ought not to increase beyond 25 1-2 mills. If the special tax is not laid, the rate in 1916 may approach 27 1-2 mills. The figures appeared during a discussion of the rate in the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, which met in City Hall, last night.

The board was engaged in making transfers of appropriation, and otherwise trying to patch up the extravagance and needless expenditures of some of the departments. Specific action was taken in two important particulars. The board voted to ask the city attorney if it has power to lay a special tax of two mills, one and one half mill of which would be to pay the state tax, and a half mill to meet the requirements of the county tax. It was voted that no more transfers will be made and no more deficiencies made up. The city clerk was instructed to notify department heads of this action. The tax question came up when Commissioner Bucher inquired what was to be done with the state tax. He thought it might go over to next year, and that the city might pay interest upon it. This brought from Commissioner Sherman the exclamation that the rate

## MAN MAY DIE AS RESULT OF FIGHT AT U. M. C. SHOP

Construction Co. Employee in Hospital With Fractured Skull.

As a sequel of the clash at the U. M. C. Co. plant between English-speaking workmen and foreign-born persons last week while a large order for munitions was being prepared for shipment, another assault has resulted in placing Thomas Donegan, an employee of the T. J. Fardy Construction Co., in the hospital, where he lies between life and death.

Attacked with murderous intent by a laborer with a shovel in his hands, Donegan's skull was fractured and his assailant has eluded the police.

The patient, upon whom a trephining was made this morning in an effort to save his life, was working at the plant last Wednesday when in an altercation with a man described as "Pasquale," he was struck on the head with a shovel. He was sent to Dr. George B. Cowell who dressed his wounds. He was apparently suffering from no serious complications. When the patient returned again yesterday it was found that fracture of the skull bone had been suffered and he was sent at once to the Bridgeport hospital, where a considerable portion of splintered bone was removed this morning. The police, when notified, began an investigation at once which tends to show that Donegan's assailant did not delay but immediately after felling his man made his escape from the city.

## ROCKEFELLER, JR. AND WALSH HAVE FURTHER BATTLE

Washington, May 22.—With only four members of the Electoral College Commission present, Chairman Walsh today resumed his cross-examination of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., on his relation to the industrial warfare between the United States and Germany. J. Borden Harbison, who protested against the attitude of Mr. Walsh in his examination of Mr. Rockefeller, was one of those absent.

Walsh read a letter to Rockefeller left the stand yesterday he was defining his attitude as to violence, declaring that if the constituted authority failed to protect life and property any one was justified in using all the force necessary to that end. Mr. Rockefeller reiterated his opinion that when the authorities failed to protect life and property the private citizen had the right to use force to protect himself. He argued that the use of force against an officer would be justified only in circumstances which would assure a finding of innocence in a court of law and, in spite of a long wrangle with the chairman, steadfastly refused to add to the statement.

Walsh read a letter to Rockefeller by L. M. Bowers, in September, 1913, saying: "Old Mother Jones has been on the ground for two weeks but we understand the governor has ordered her to be taken to the state line and told not to return."

Walsh then read part of Mr. Rockefeller's letter to Mr. Bowers saying he would back the mine officials in everything they did and asked if it was not written after deportations had occurred.

"Will you be kind enough to read all of my letter?" Mr. Rockefeller reminded. "I can't do that at this time," said Mr. Walsh, "but any letter you desire to read you may submit after I have concluded my examination."

"Then I am unable to reply intelligently to questions based on fragments of letters."

## Harding To Appeal From Decision of the Superior Court

Harvey Harding, who married Ruth Parker Bullen after Fred Bullen died, will appeal to the supreme court from the decision of the superior court in the suit of the Erwin M. Jennings Co. against Harvey Harding and others. The superior court found in favor of the Jennings Co. to recover \$2,325 from the defendants on notes alleged to be unpaid. The notes were given in payment for an automobile. Attorney George F. Mara represents Harding.

## Medical Aid Cannot Save Girl Who Took Bichloride Poison

Although all medical aid possible has been given Catherine Doherty of Armstrong place, who attempted suicide in the Church of the Holy Rosary, East Washington avenue, May 16, by swallowing four 1/2 half grain tablets of bichloride of mercury, she has steadily grown weaker and is today reported hovering between life and death at the Bridgeport hospital. Little hope is held for recovery from the slow but insidious action of the poison.

The railroad police today reported ten cases of beer stolen from a freight car on the siding at Crescent avenue.

## T. R. WINS; BATTLE TO GO HIGHER

Jury Brings in Verdict For Defendant in \$50,000 Libel Action After Taking 40 Ballots—Barnes' Counsel Announces That He Will Appeal.

Lone Jurymen Who Held Out For Verdict For Plaintiff is Finally Won Over By Majority—Colonel Thanks Talesman in Person After the Verdict.

Syracuse, May 22.—After taking 40 ballots, the jury in the \$50,000 libel suit brought by William Barnes, Jr., against former President Theodore Roosevelt, this morning returned a unanimous verdict for the defendant.

William M. Ivins, of counsel for William Barnes, announced at New York this afternoon that an appeal would be taken.

The verdict was unexpected, inasmuch as the jury had deliberated all night without decision, following their return, yesterday, of an improper verdict for the defendant. One juror had held out for the plaintiff throughout most of the 40 ballots, and finally was won over by the majority.

The verdict places all the costs of the five weeks' litigation on the plaintiff. The question of costs had kept the jury divided as to a verdict for more than 11 hours, some of the talesmen favoring an equal division of the costs.

There was a tense silence in the courtroom when a knock from within the door of the jury room announced that the jury was ready to report. The jurors, filed into their seats. Colonel Roosevelt and Mr. Barnes scanned the faces of each.

The foreman of the jury, Warren W. Summers, announced that the verdict was for the defendant and then the jury was polled. Ten jurors answered "For the defendant." Then the clerk hesitated, called the names of Edward Burns and waited. Burns stood up and in a deep voice said, "For the defendant." Juror No. 12 gave the same answer.

Before the jury came in the spectators in the crowded courtroom were warned that any demonstration would be met with severe punishment. Except for the voice of the clerk and jurors, the room was absolutely quiet until the name of Burns was called. When he announced that he, too, favored a verdict for the former President, the courtroom buzzed like a dynamo with voices. Several persons in the courtroom stood up and waved their hands but there was no outburst of applause.

## Colonel Thanks Jurors

After the announcement of the verdict, attorneys for Mr. Barnes objected to its receipt. The objection was overruled, the jury was thanked by Justice Andrews for its services, and it then filed out to the juryroom. Col. Roosevelt broke off shaking hands with his counsel and newspapermen and hurried to the juryroom. There he thanked the jury and shook hands with each member, and said: "In my whole life I shall work in the interest of the public and none of you gentlemen shall ever have the chance to say that I have done otherwise."

The Colonel was then photographed with the jury.

After a picture had been taken the Colonel turned to the jury and continued: "I am more moved by this verdict than it is possible for me to express. None of you, I assure you, will ever have cause to regret your action. I am especially gratified that such a verdict came from a jury composed of men of every political faith."

The foreman of the jury said 40 ballots were taken before the verdict was reached. (Continued on Page 3.)

## SAILING SHIP IS TORPEDOED; CREW RESCUED

Berehaven, Ireland, May 22.—The British sailing ship, Glenholm was sunk yesterday evening by a German submarine, 15 miles off this port. The members of her crew have been landed here.

The Glenholm was on her way from Chilly to Liverpool with a cargo of nitra when the submarine intercepted her and signalled the crew to abandon her. The ship was then sunk, the submarine firing 39 rounds from her guns before she went down.

## WAR IMMINENT, ITALY'S KING URGES SUBJECTS TO LOYALTY; AUSTRIAN TROOPS AT BORDER

## TROOP TRAIN AND LOCAL COLLIDE; EXPRESS PLOWS INTO WRECKAGE; 50 DEAD

Carlisle, Eng., May 22.—More than 50 persons, most of them soldiers, were killed and at least 300 injured, early today, when two passenger trains collided and a third train crashed into the wreckage at Gretna, near this city.

One of the trains, a troop train, collided with a local from Carlisle, killing many of the soldiers and maiming others. As the uninjured passengers began rescue work, an express train from London to Glasgow, plowed into the wreck.

Locomotives Hurlled About. The result was terrifying. Locomotives and coaches were shattered and flung about like matchwood.

Fire broke out in the wreckage and soon was burning so fiercely that the men engaged in the work of rescue were driven back. There was nothing to do but wait for the coming of the fire brigades. These were brought up at all possible speed.

On the scene they labored with frantic energy to obtain control of the flames but before the fire was put out many of the travelers plumed under the wreckage of the cars were burned to death before the eyes of the onlookers.

Hospitals Are Filled. Hospitals for miles around are filled with the injured, many of whom will die. It is reported that the total casualties will reach 400.

The triple collision occurred on the Caledonian railway. Following the crash of the troop train and the local,

## TEACHERS RETAIN ATTORNEY TO FIGHT SO-CALLED MERIT SYSTEM

The seriousness of the installation of the "merit" system in the public schools, as far as the teachers are concerned, is shown by the fact that legal counsel has been consulted as to ways and means of fighting the system.

Attorney Jacob B. Klein has been waited on by a committee from the Bridgeport Teachers' Association in the effort to formulate a plan to combat what the teachers consider not only an unjust system but a ridiculous one.

Legal proceedings are not necessary just now, the attorney counseled. He told the teachers to call upon President Elmer H. Havens of the board of education and ask him for

## SKIPPER DEMMONS IS FREED; TAKES CRAFT BACK HOME

Master of Schooner Exonerated in Drowning of Ralph Bartlett.

Coroner Phelan, having exonerated Ralph Bartlett in the drowning of Skipper Demmons, Captain C. E. Demmons and his mate, Olie Houston sailed today in the three-masted schooner Brigadier for Rockland, Me. Coroner Phelan sent to Prosecuting Attorney Delaney late yesterday afternoon his finding in the case in which he said that although the men in the power boat that ran down the canoe in which Bartlett and George Pullen were paddling, were intoxicated at the time, he was satisfied they had done everything which might be expected of sober men and that the collision which swamped the canoe and drowned Bartlett was unavoidable. The coroner finds that Bartlett's death was an accident. In the city court today Judge Wilder recommended a nolle.

Capt. Demmons and Mate Houston have been in the Bridgeport jail since they were first before the city court last Monday on a charge of manslaughter. Bonds which they were unable to obtain were fixed at \$5,000 for each. The men were discharged from custody today and immediately went on board their ship.

The vessel is owned by Francis Cobb, Governor of Maine. He had been the proprietor of the home of the ship and he sent another skipper here to bring the ship home. Capt. Demmons however took charge of his vessel and will sail her back to the home port. It is reported that the captain's wife is in a delicate condition at Rockland and since Wednesday when she first learned of the serious charge against her husband has been prostrated.

Immediately after his release the captain sent her a telegram to reassure her.

## PECK CASE CONTINUED AGAIN IN HIGH COURT

Because the trial of three alleged arson cases has not been finished, the case of Attorney Walter F. Peck of New York has been continued again in the criminal superior court until Tuesday. It was expected that the Peck case would be resumed Monday. Attorney Peck is accused of subornation of perjury in connection with a lawsuit in which Mrs. Mary Horn recovered \$12,000 from the New Haven Railroad Co.

The medical corps attached to the Coast Artillery Corps, C. N. G., will hold their annual outing at Daniels Farms tomorrow. The corps will be under command of Major F. J. Adams and by special permission of the adjutant general will proceed to the grounds in heavy marching order to participate in field drills.

## Royal Proclamation, Reciting History of Negotiations Leading to War, Is Promulgated At Rome; Austrians Near Border Seize Train For Milan and Arrest Crew.

Pope Benedict, Sorrowing at War, Will Issue Statement Announcing Neutrality of Vatican—Great Battle on River San Is Waged Without Advantage to Either Side.

Rome, May 22.—King Victor Emmanuel will issue a proclamation to the people, countersigned by all the ministers tomorrow (Saturday.) The document will explain how Italy has been driven to take up arms and will appeal to all citizens to do their duty in such a way that victory will be assured.

Another royal proclamation will be addressed to the army and to the fleet.

Government Gets "War Power" London, May 22.—A despatch from the Stefani News Agency of Rome, says that King Victor Emmanuel signed today an act conferring extraordinary powers on the government "for the duration of the war."

Military Takes Over Railroads Rome, May 22.—The Official Gazette has published a decree empowering the military authorities to take control of all Italian railroads.

## Austrians Seize Milan Train

London, May 22.—A Rome despatch to the Exchange Telegraph company reporting the cutting of railway communication by Austrians at Udine, states that one train from Milan, going toward Austria, was stopped and seized on Austrian territory. The crew of the train is reported to have been arrested.

## Austrians Mass Troops

Geneva, Switzerland, May 22.—The Journal, publishes a despatch from Rome announcing that the Austrians are concentrating large forces along the upper Adige river. The Adige flows from the Tyrol into Lombardy and enters the Gulf of Venice.

## Pope To Proclaim Vatican Neutrality

Rome, May 22.—Deep regret is felt by Pope Benedict that Italy has decided for a war which he, as head of the church, hoped might be averted. The Holy See will maintain strict neutrality, making no effort to restrain Italian Catholics from following the dictates of their conscience. A papal document outlining this position is expected soon. It is announced that because of the gravity of the situation the consistory to have been held this month to fill vacancies in the College of Cardinals has been postponed indefinitely.

## GREAT BATTLE RAGES ALONG RIVER SAN

London, May 22.—A great battle is still raging along a 250 mile front on the eastern line. Although Russia, apparently, is gaining on both flanks, the decision must come along the 60 mile front in the center, along the River San, in eastern Galicia, where the Austrians and Germans are still pressing the offensive.

The latest Petrograd communication states that this attack is being checked between the San and the great marshes of the Dniester. The Russian press, while admitting that the Teutonic forces have established themselves across the San, declares they can go no farther in that direction. Petrograd also has been cheered by the official report that the Russians are again advancing against the Turks in the Caucasus.

On the western line, Paris reports that the French stopped a strong night attack of the Germans north of Ypres and also have driven the invaders from the slopes of "Lorette," thus giving the allies full possession of this important salient.

Only vague reports come from the Dardanelles. One of the most significant of them is the dispatch from General Sir Ian Hamilton, commander-in-chief of the British land forces

Continued from Page 1

## HATTERS' UNION WON'T RAISE FUNDS TO PAY LOEWE CO. JUDGMENT

New York, May 22.—The United Hatters of North America, in convention here, voted today not to raise a fund to satisfy the \$285,000 judgment affirmed by the United States supreme court to Loewe & Co., hat manufacturers of Danbury, Conn., against members of the Hatters' Union.

The hatters did vote, however, to raise a fund for the relief of the individuals whose homes and bank accounts have been attached to satisfy the judgement.

## BELIEVE INCENDIARY WITH SLOW FUSE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTLY REDDING FIRES

Many Valuable Buildings Imperiled In Latest Of Series of Fires Attributed to Firebug—Selectmen May Act.

(Special to The Farmer.) Redding, May 22.—Some person who is demented or who has some grievance against the citizens of Redding is using a slow-burning fuse to destroy by fire, residences and barns in this neighborhood on the average of two or three a month.

That is the theory on which the board of selectmen have been asked to work as a result of the latest incendiary act, which occurred this morning when a large barn and an outhouse on the property of Harbert S. Barnes in Redding Ridge were destroyed and other buildings valued at \$35,000 were barely saved.

For months the citizens of Redding have been wrought up by the outrages that have been perpetrated by firebugs. Buildings containing cattle and valuable equipment, houses and furniture, and garages have been reduced to ashes in some inexplicable manner. Investigation has failed to show the culprit, and most of the cases are believed to have been certainly incendiary.

As a result of a study of the circumstances in connection with the latest case, citizens have advanced the belief that a slow-burning fuse is being used by some person or persons. The selectmen will be urged to offer a reward for the apprehension of the incendiary.

About 10 o'clock this morning smoke was seen coming out the front door of the largest barn on the Barnes estate, by a family who occupied a furnished room in another barn nearby. They gave the alarm by telephone and in a few minutes, many neighbors flocked to the scene to fight the flames. Garden boxes were turned on the fire, which originated in a (Continued on Page Two)

## WEATHER FORECAST

Showers this afternoon or tonight; Sunday partly cloudy and warmer.

## BRIDGEPORT GETS NEXT CONVENTION OF WOMEN CLUBS

Thompsonville, Conn., May 22.—The Federation of Women's Clubs before concluding its annual session today accepted the invitation of the Women's Club of Ansonia, Derby and Shelton, to meet with it next year, which will be the 20th convention. The mid-year meeting will be held in the fall at Bridgeport and the annual convention will be held at New Haven in February.

The failure of the legislature to pass a bill to establish a woman's reformatory was the subject of criticism in several committee reports submitted. One report showed that delegates were present from 34 towns representing 38 clubs.

## Canada Imposes New War Tax on Letters

The Canadian government on April 15 imposed a war tax of one cent on every letter mailed for delivery in the Dominion of Canada, the United Kingdom and British Possessions and in the United States and Mexico and on every post card mailed in Canada for delivery in the United States and Mexico, also on every postal note issued in Canada. According to an order issued May 17 the ordinary postage stamp may be used in the place of the war tax stamp which has the words, "war tax," printed upon it.

## GOVERNMENT DISPLAYS POST OFFICE EQUIPMENT

According to the Daily Bulletin of postoffice orders, the Post Office department has on exhibition at San Francisco a model post office, a railway post office and motion pictures of postal operations as well as a display of pneumatic tubes such as are in use in the larger cities of the country.